

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 31, 2003

\$25,000 REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION IN KILLING OF ANACOSTIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

The Metropolitan Police Department is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for a fatal shooting of a 16-year-old student outside Anacostia Senior High School in Southeast on Thursday afternoon, October 30. At about 3:15 pm, as students were leaving a homecoming event inside the school, a lone male, armed with a handgun, approached a group outside the school in the 1600 block of 16th Street, SE, and began firing. A 16-year-old student, Devin M. Fowlkes, was struck in the chest and died a short time later at Howard University Hospital. There is no evidence that Fowlkes, a tailback on the Anacostia High football team, was the intended target. Two Sixth District officers, working as School Resource Officers at Anacostia, observed the incident. One of the officers pursued a suspect on foot to Ridge Road, SE, but the suspect made good his escape. He is described only as a black male believed to be in his teens. Anyone with information is asked to call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099. DCPS officials said the incident was the first fatal shooting of a student on a DC public school campus in seven years.

MPDC CONVERTS TO NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

Mirroring the Department of Homeland Security national advisory system, the MPDC recently revamped its Emergency Response Plan to more closely match the national system. Previously, the MPDC had a three-tiered system for responding to different threat levels. Now, the Department has moved to a five-tiered, color-coded system that generally matches the well known system created by Homeland Security. Response Level Green indicates no credible risk of a threat to public safety. Blue indicates a general risk to public safety, with no credible threats to specific targets. Yellow indicates a significant possibility of a major threat to public safety. Orange indicates a major threat to public safety may be imminent, based on information or intelligence. Red indicates a major threat to public safety is in progress or has occurred. The MPDC's response plan lays out the different resources and actions that would be deployed at various response levels. As with the nation as a whole, the MPDC is currently at Response Level Yellow.

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2394>
- ① In an effort to curb gun violence involving young people, the MPDC this fall has teamed up with a project called Coaches Against Gun Violence. Details about the program at:
http://www.allianceforjustice.org/student/against_violence/
- ① In another school safety matter this week, a 16-year-old student at Ballou Senior High School in Southeast was taken into custody in connection with the theft of mercury from the school's laboratory on October 2. Details at:
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2386>
- ① The DC Emergency Management Agency has developed a list of security actions that the public could take at different response levels:
<http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view.asp?a=1226&q=533522>
- ① For a copy of the Districtwide Emergency Response Plan, go to:
<http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/cwp/view.asp?a=1226&q=533529&dcemaNav=|31810>
- ① Learn more about the national Homeland Security Advisory System at:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>

PUBLIC INVITED TO MPDC'S FOURTH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY, NOVEMBER 6 AT DAR CONSTITUTION HALL

Every day of the year—usually with little notice or fanfare—MPDC officers, civilian employees and community members do remarkable things to help make DC's neighborhoods safer. On Thursday evening, November 6, 2003, the MPDC will publicly honor these community policing heroes during the Department's 4th Annual Awards Ceremony, to be held at DAR Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, NW. Among the awards that will be presented are two of the Department's highest honors: the Medal of Honor and the Medal of Valor. The MPDC's Officer of the Year and civilian Employee of the Year awards will also be presented, as will other awards for bravery, excellence and service. Community members and representatives of other law enforcement agencies that work with the MPDC will also be recognized. Members of the public and the news media are encouraged to attend this free event, which will also include musical entertainment.

MPDC AND CAPITOL HILL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT TO LAUNCH "DIRECT CONNECT" PILOT PROGRAM

Beginning in November, the Capitol Hill business community and Ambassadors working for the Capitol Hill Business Improvement District (BID) will have the ability to contact an MPDC officer directly on NEXTEL phones provided by the Capitol Hill BID. This pilot program is designed to foster closer relationships among PSA officers in the First District, the business community and the Capitol Hill BID. "The thought of picking up a phone and talking directly to a beat officer presents a rare opportunity for businesses within the BID," said PSA 106 Lt. David Kamperin. MPDC officials stress that the program is not intended to replace use of 9-1-1 or the 3-1-1 non-emergency number for reporting incidents. Rather, it is intended to get follow-up information on previously reported incidents, assistance with chronic problems or quality-of-life issues, or community service issues.

NEWS & NOTES

In Memoriam: Mayor Walter Washington. The MPDC joins the entire DC community in mourning the passing of the District's first elected Mayor, Walter E. Washington. The MPDC Honor Guard and other units are proud to assist with the public viewing, funeral and procession of this titan of DC government and history. More details at <http://www.dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=541>

Citizen Summit III Rescheduled. Because of the funeral for Mayor Washington, Citizen Summit III has been rescheduled from November 1 to November 15. The time (8 am – 4 pm) and the location (new Washington Convention Center) remain the same. Details and on-line registration at <http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov/main.shtm>

Drug Free Zone. A drug free zone is in effect this weekend in the First Police District, with additional zones planned for next week. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>

Halloween Safety Preparations. The MPDC will have additional resources to manage large crowds expected in the Georgetown community for Halloween on Friday evening. Details, as well as links to other Halloween safety resources, at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2392>

① Details on the ceremony are at: <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2390>

① To help make it easier for DC residents to commend outstanding police officers and civilian employees, the MPDC has added an on-line Commendation Form to the Department's website. Access this new feature at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/file_commendation.shtm

① Learn more about the activities of the Capitol Hill BID at: <http://www.capitolhillbid.org/default.htm>

① For guidance on using 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 in DC, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/numbers.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 10/31/03)

- 2003: 208
- 2002: 211
- % Change: -1.4%

Adult Arrests (week end. 10/25/03)

- Total: 666
- Drugs: 128
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 20
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 25

Firearm Recoveries (as of 10/29/03)

- Total: 1,628
- October: 173

Traffic Fatalities (as of 10/31/03)

- 2003: 56
- 2002: 46
- % Change: +21.7%